FAY. SHARPE. FAGAN. MINNICH & MCKEE. LLP

PATENT TRADEMARK AND COPYRIGHT LAW

MARK E. BANDY
JOHN P. CORNELY
JOSEPH D. DREHER
JUDE A. FRY
STEVEN M. HAAS
MICHAEL E. HUDZINSKI
RICHARD M. KLEIN
THOMAS E. KOCOVSKY, JR.
SANDRA M. KOENIG
SCOTT A. MCCOLLISTER
JAY F. MOLDOVANYI
PHILIP J. MOY, JR.
TIMOTHY E. NAUMAN

PATRICK R. ROCHE
JAMES E. SCARBROUGH
ANN M. SKERRY, PH.D.
MARK S. SVAT
BRIAN E. TURUNG
GREGORY S. VICKERS
ROBERT V. VICKERS

OF COUNSEL
E. KENT DANIELS, JR.
CHRISTOPHER B. FAGAN
JAMES W. MCKEE
RICHARD J. MINNICH
THOMAS E. YOUNG

1100 SUPERIOR AVENUE
SEVENTH FLOOR
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44114-2579
TELEPHONE (216) 861-5582
FAX (216) 241-1666
WEB: www.faysharpe.com

Philip J. Moy Jr.
pmoy@faysharpe.com

MATTHEW P. DUGAN
KEVIN M. DUNN
PATRICK D. FLOYD
COLLEEN FLYNN GOSS
KARL W. HAUBER
ERIC M. HIGHMAN
ERIC W. LEE
ERIK J. OVERBERGER
SUE ELLEN PHILLIPS
ROBERT A. SIDOTI
ROBERT M. SIEG, PH.D.
SCOTT M. SLABY
ALEXANDER P. TSAROUHAS

JOSEPH E. WATERS
JONATHAN A. WITHROW
JEFFREY N. ZAHN
MARINA V. ZALEVSKY
JOHN S. ZANGHI

REGISTERED PATENT AGENTS
ANTHONY M. DEL ZOPPO, III
THOMAS TILLANDER
GUOSHENG WANG, PH.D.

ALBERT P. SHARPE, III
1959-2001

13 January 2006

The International Bureau of WIPO
34, Chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20
SWITZERLAND

VIA FACSIMILE
Confirmation via DHL Courier

Re: International (PCT) Patent Application of
WASTE MINIMIZATION AND CONTAINMENT INC.
Entitled: **DRY ICE FEEDING APPARATUS AND METHOD**
Inventor: Becker
App. No.: PCT/US2004/033158
Filed: 08 October 2004
Our Ref.: WMCZ 2 00010 PCT

Dear Sir:

AMENDMENT UNDER ARTICLE 19

This Amendment Under Article 19 is in response to the International Search Report and Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority mailed 16 November 2005 in connection with the above-captioned application.

Explanation of Amendments

This Amendment is limited to amending claims and comprises Substitute Pages 19 and 21, which are submitted in triplicate.

In accordance with the requirements of Rule 66.8(a) that attention must be drawn to the differences between the original and replacement sheets, applicant advises that:

(a) Claims 1-18 remain unchanged;

(b) Claim 19 has been amended;

(c) Claims 20-24 remain unchanged; and

(d) Claims 25 and 26 have been amended.

Applicant also sets forth below the specific changes that have been made to amended 19, 25, and 26, with strikethroughs denoting deletions and underlining denoting additions:

19. The apparatus of claim ~~1918~~, wherein:

said upper opening of said hopper includes a lip extending upwardly from said head portion of said hopper, said lip terminating with a horizontal lip flange; and

said lid includes a peripheral lid flange and a seal member disposed on the upper surface of said lid flange, said seal member being configured to contact and mate with both the upper surface of said lid flange and the lower surface of said lip flange when said lid is disposed within said hopper and urged upwardly to cover said upper opening of said hopper.

25. The method of claim ~~2524~~, further comprising the step of controlling the exit of dry ice pieces from the pressure vessel to the mixing chamber with a metering valve disposed between the opening in the bottom of the pressure vessel and the mixing chamber.

26. The method of claim ~~2524~~, further comprising the step of controlling the size of dry ice pieces exiting from the pressure vessel to the mixing chamber with a size-reducing device disposed between the opening in the bottom of the pressure vessel and the mixing chamber.

Remarks

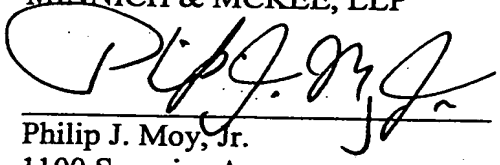
The amendments to claims 19 and 25 are in response to the defects set forth in Box No. VII of the Written Opinion, which noted that dependent claims 19 and 25 depended from themselves. As amended, claim 19 now depends from claim 18, and claim 25 now depends from claim 24. Claim 26 also has been amended to depend from claim 24.

Applicant also notes that the Written Opinion mailed 16 November 2005 fails to address several claims of the application and treats numerous claims in an inconsistent manner. For example, there is no mention of claim 5 or claim 15 in either the Statement of Box V.1 or the Citations and Explanations of Box V.2 (Supplemental Box). In addition, claim 16 is not listed anywhere in the Statement of Box V.1, although it is addressed in Box V.2. Applicant also finds it confusing that Box V.1 lists claim 1-3, 18, 24, and 25 as satisfying the requirements for novelty, while the explanation in Box V.2 states that those same claims lack novelty. Moreover, Box V.1 lists in the same space for claims lacking an inventive step both (a) claims 1-3 and 24, which Box V.2 identifies as lacking novelty; and (b) claims 7-9, 13, 14, and 19-21, which Box V.2 states satisfy the criteria of PCT Article 33(2)-(3). Furthermore, claim 22 is listed in a single group along with claims 19, 20, and 21 in Box V.1, but it is not mentioned anywhere in Box V.2.

Applicant respectfully requests that a supplemental Written Opinion be issued that (a) deals with all the claims of this application on the merits and (b) provides consistency between the Statement of Box V.1 and the Citations and Explanations of Box V.2. A supplemental Written Opinion would provide clear and proper guidance for subsequent national-stage applications based on this PCT application. Applicant also suggests that, in supplementing the Written Opinion, the International Searching Authority revisit the analysis of claim 18. In dealing with claim 18, the Written Opinion makes reference to the use of an O-ring as a seal for the hopper. Claim 18, however, does not recite an O-ring, although claim 23 does.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,
MINNICH & MCKEE, LLP



Philip J. Moy, Jr.
1100 Superior Avenue
Seventh Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-2579
(216) 861-5582

Enclosures (x3)

mixing chamber and said hopper to permit the compressed air to pressurize said hopper when said lid seals said upper opening of said hopper.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said head portion, cylindrical upper portion, and frusto-conical lower portion of said hopper comprise a welded stainless steel pressure vessel.

17. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the wall of said lower portion of said hopper forms an angle greater than 65° from a horizontal line when the axis of said frusto-conical section is vertical.

18. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said lid covers and seals said upper opening of said hopper from inside said hopper.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein:

said upper opening of said hopper includes a lip extending upwardly from said head portion of said hopper, said lip terminating with a horizontal lip flange; and

said lid includes a peripheral lid flange and a seal member disposed on the upper surface of said lid flange, said seal member being configured to contact and mate with both the upper surface of said lid flange and the lower surface of said lip flange when said lid is disposed within said hopper and urged upwardly to cover said upper opening of said hopper.

d. directing a flow of the clean, dry compressed air across the mixing chamber and out of the outlet, whereby dry ice pieces exiting the opening in the bottom of the pressure vessel become entrained in the compressed air flow through the mixing chamber and exit the mixing chamber through the outlet to the blast gun or other dispensing device.

25. The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of controlling the exit of dry ice pieces from the pressure vessel to the mixing chamber with a metering valve disposed between the opening in the bottom of the pressure vessel and the mixing chamber.

26. The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of controlling the size of dry ice pieces exiting from the pressure vessel to the mixing chamber with a size-reducing device disposed between the opening in the bottom of the pressure vessel and the mixing chamber.